

N O R T H C A R O L I N A

Violent Death
Reporting System
Cumberland County 2004 – 2007

March 2010

North Carolina
Injury & Violence
PREVENTION Branch

Division of Public Health

Background and Acknowledgements

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded state-wide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January, 2004. This document summarizes findings from Cumberland County, North Carolina that occurred from 2004 to 2007.

A Statewide Annual Report for 2007 will be completed by summer of 2010. More information can be found at: www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm.

The task of locating, abstracting, entering, and evaluating the data that are used to create the NC-VDRS is challenging, time-consuming and difficult. The extent and quality of the data in this report are the direct result of the dedication of the NC-VDRS staff: Tammy Norwood, Program Manager, and Susan Autry and Pat Jones, Statistical Research Assistants.

Thanks to Sharon Schiro for the analysis and programming of the NC-VDRS data, and Becca Byrd for the formatting and updating of this report.

Three advisory groups provided assistance to us with this report. The leadership of these advisory groups formed the Board Leadership & Evaluation Team (BLET). Members of the BLET for 2007 were Tamera Coyne-Beasley, Kay Sanford, Phillip J. Cook, Sandra Martin, Steve Marshall, and Anna Waller.

We acknowledge the assistance and on-going support of the N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, the N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation, as well as the many local law enforcement agencies throughout N.C. that have provided information to the NC-VDRS.

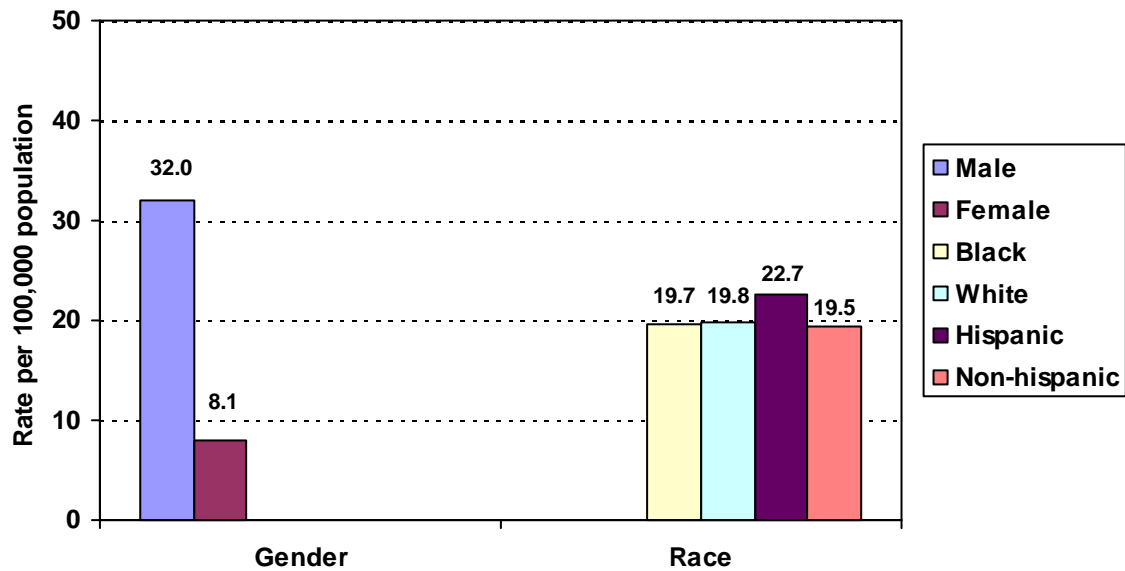
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SECTION I: OVERALL

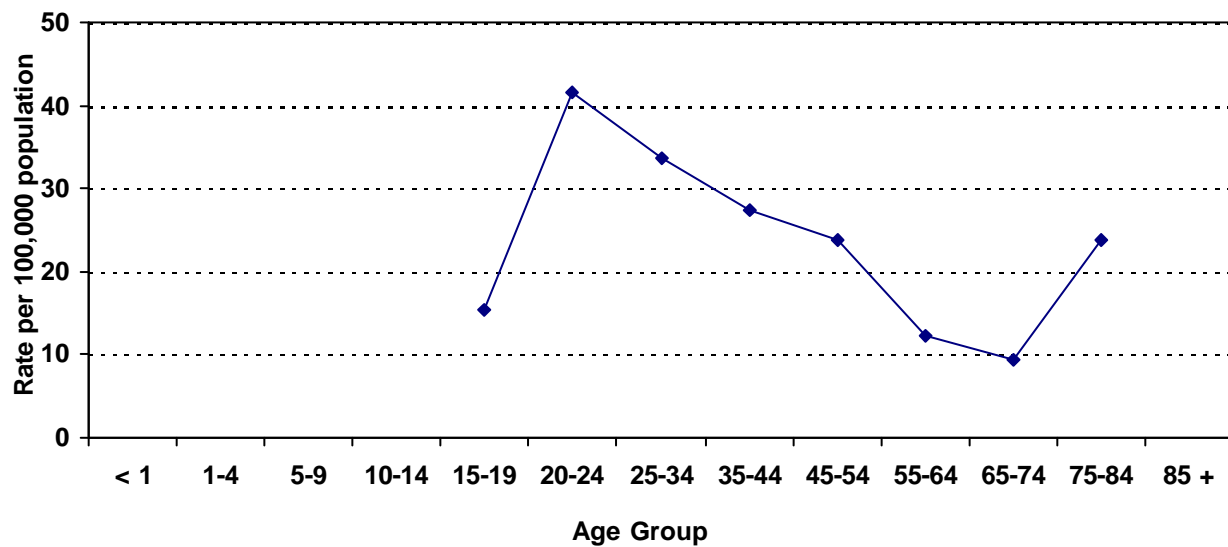
Table 1: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Violent Death Victims in Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007					
		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	192	79.0	32.0	27.5 - 36.5
	Female	51	21.0	8.1	5.9 - 10.3
Race					
	American Indian	4	1.6	*	*
	Asian	5	2.1	14.7	1.9 - 27.5
	Black	91	37.4	19.7	15.7 - 23.7
	White	141	58.0	19.8	16.5 - 23.1
	Pacific Islander	1	0.4	*	*
	Unknown	1	0.4	*	*
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	18	7.4	22.7	12.2 - 33.2
	Non-Hispanic	225	92.6	19.5	16.9 - 22.1
Age Group					
	< 1	4	1.6	*	*
	1 - 4	4	1.6	*	*
	5 - 9	0	0	*	*
	10 - 14	0	0	*	*
	15 - 19	15	6.2	15.4	7.6 - 23.2
	20 - 24	44	18.1	41.7	29.4 - 54.0
	25 - 34	57	23.5	33.6	24.9 - 42.3
	35 - 44	50	20.6	27.3	19.7 - 34.9
	45 - 54	39	16.0	23.7	16.3 - 31.1
	55 - 64	14	5.8	12.3	5.8 - 18.8
	65 - 74	6	2.5	9.3	1.8 - 16.8
	75 - 84	8	3.3	23.9	7.3 - 40.5
	85 +	2	0.8	*	*
Total Deaths		243	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Overall Violent Death Rates by Gender and Race,
Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

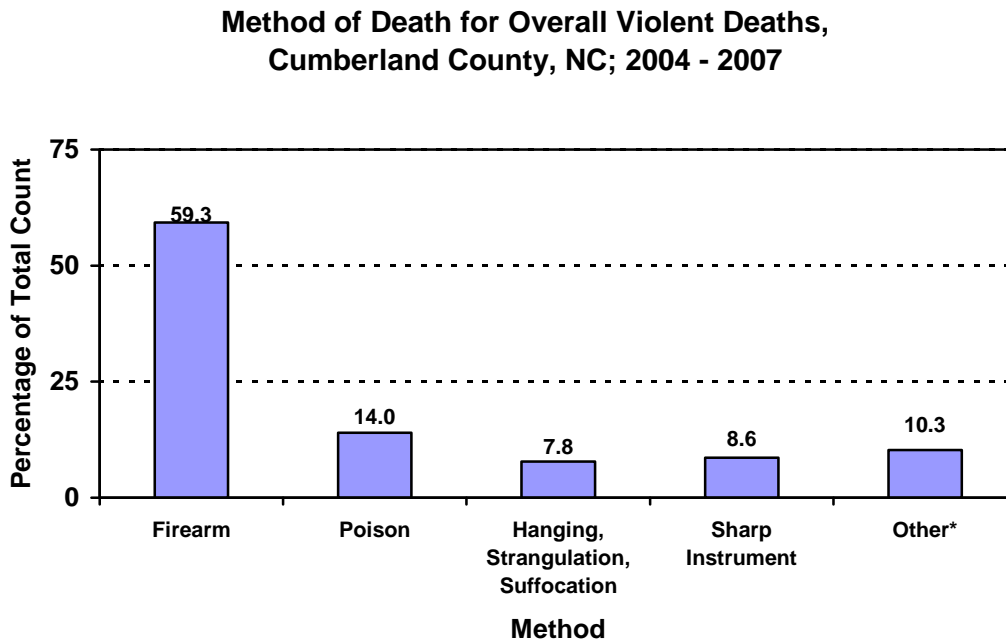
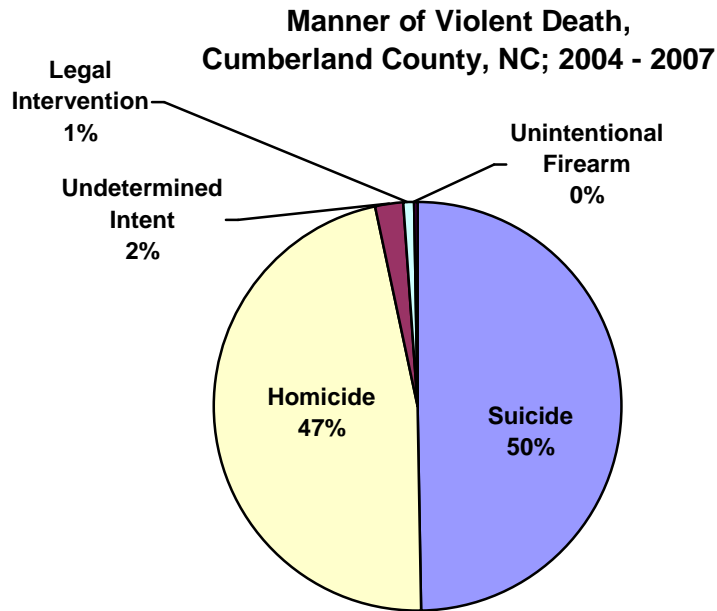


**Overall Violent Death Rates by Age,
Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

Table 2: Manner and Method of Violent Death Victims in Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
		Number	%
Manner of Death			
	Suicide	121	49.8
	Homicide	114	46.9
	Undetermined Intent	5	2.1
	Legal Intervention	2	0.8
	Unintentional Firearm	1	0.4
Method			
	Firearm	144	59.3
	Poisoning	34	14.0
	Sharp Instrument	21	8.6
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	19	7.8
	Blunt Instrument	8	3.3
	Unarmed Assault	5	2.1
	Fall	3	1.2
	Motor Vehicle	3	1.2
	Drowning	2	0.8
	Intentional Neglect	1	0.4
	Other Transport Vehicle	1	0.4
	Other	1	0.4
	Unknown	1	0.4
Total Deaths		243	100



* Other methods include: blunt instruments, unarmed assaults, falls, drowning, fires or burns, violent shaking, motor vehicles, other transport vehicles, intentional neglect and other unspecified methods.

Table 3: Race by Gender of Violent Death Victims in Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Race										
American Indian	3	1.6	*	*	1	2.0	*	*	4	1.6
Asian	3	1.6	*	*	2	3.9	*	*	5	2.1
Black	74	38.5	33.8	26.1 - 41.5	17	33.3	7.0	3.7 - 10.3	91	37.4
White	111	57.8	31.0	25.2 - 36.8	30	58.8	8.4	5.4 - 11.4	141	58.0
Other/ Unknown	1	0.5	*	*	1	2.0	*	*	2	0.8
Total Deaths	192	100			51	100			243	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Violent Death Victims,
Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

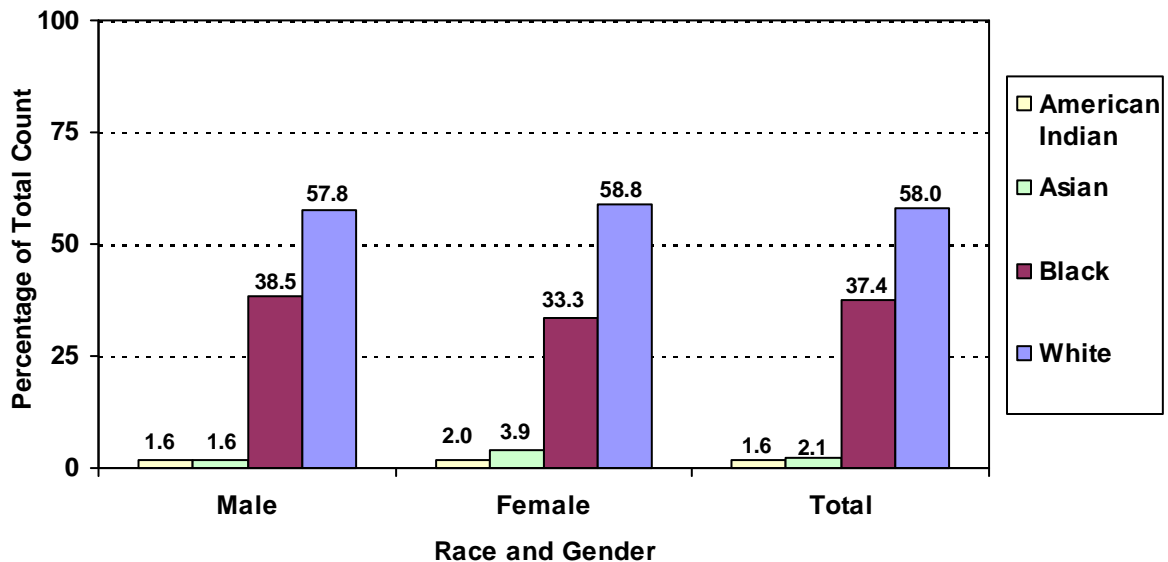
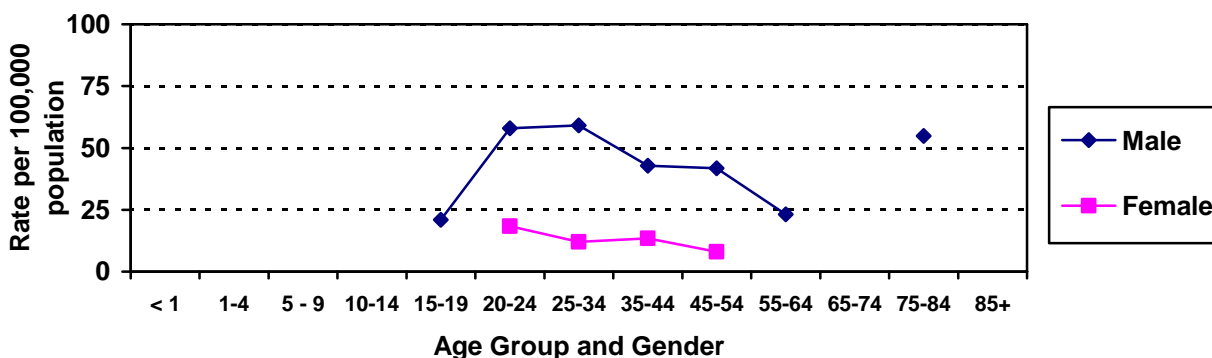


Table 4: Age Group by Gender of Violent Death Victims in Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Age Group										
< 1	2	1.0	*	*	2	3.9	*	*	4	1.6
1 - 4	3	1.6	*	*	1	2.0	*	*	4	1.6
15 - 19	11	5.7	20.9	8.5 - 33.3	4	7.8	*	*	15	6.2
20 - 24	36	18.8	58.0	39.1 - 76.9	8	15.7	18.4	5.7 - 31.1	44	18.1
25 - 34	46	24.0	59.1	42.0 - 76.2	11	21.6	12.0	4.9 - 19.1	57	23.5
35 - 44	37	19.3	42.8	29.0 - 56.6	13	25.5	13.5	6.2 - 20.8	50	20.6
45 - 54	32	16.7	41.8	27.3 - 56.3	7	13.7	8.0	2.1 - 13.9	39	16.0
55 - 64	12	6.3	23.1	10.1 - 36.1	2	3.9	*	*	14	5.8
65 - 74	4	2.1	*	*	2	3.9	*	*	6	2.5
75 - 84	7	3.6	54.8	14.2 - 95.4	1	2.0	*	*	8	3.3
85 +	2	1.0	*	*	0	0	*	*	2	0.8
Total Deaths	192	100			51	100			243	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Overall Violent Death Rates by Age Group and Gender of Victims,
Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

SECTION II: SUICIDE

Table 5: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Suicide Victims in Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007					
		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	95	78.5	19.0	15.2 - 22.8
	Female	26	21.5	4.8	2.9 - 6.7
Race					
	American Indian	2	1.7	*	*
	Asian	4	3.3	*	*
	Black	21	17.4	5.4	3.1 - 7.7
	White	92	76.0	15.2	12.1 - 18.3
	Pacific Islander	1	0.8	*	*
	Unknown	1	0.8	*	*
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	8	6.6	13.5	4.1 - 22.9
	Non-Hispanic	113	93.4	11.6	9.5 - 13.7
Age Group					
	10 - 14	0	0	*	*
	15 - 19	7	5.8	7.2	1.9 - 12.5
	20 - 24	17	14.0	16.1	8.4 - 23.8
	25 - 34	33	27.3	19.5	12.9 - 26.1
	35 - 44	23	19.0	12.6	7.5 - 17.7
	45 - 54	19	15.7	11.6	6.4 - 16.8
	55 - 64	11	9.1	9.7	4.0 - 15.4
	65 - 74	4	3.3	*	*
	75 - 84	6	5.0	18.0	3.6 - 32.4
	85 +	1	0.8	*	*
Total Deaths		121	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Suicide Rates by Gender and Race,
Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

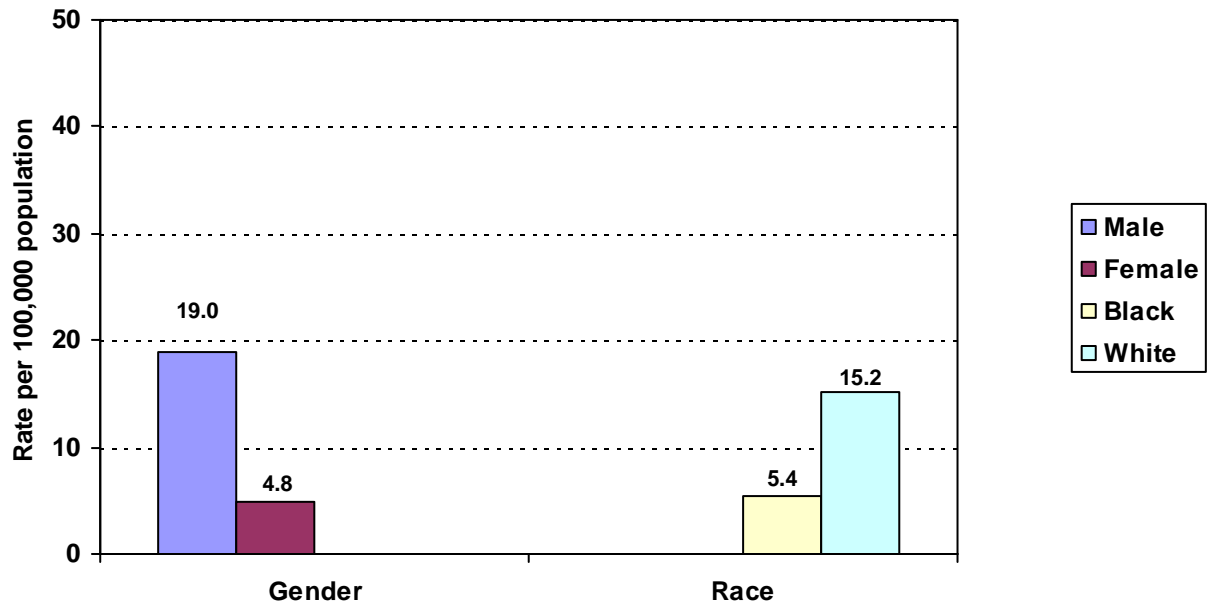
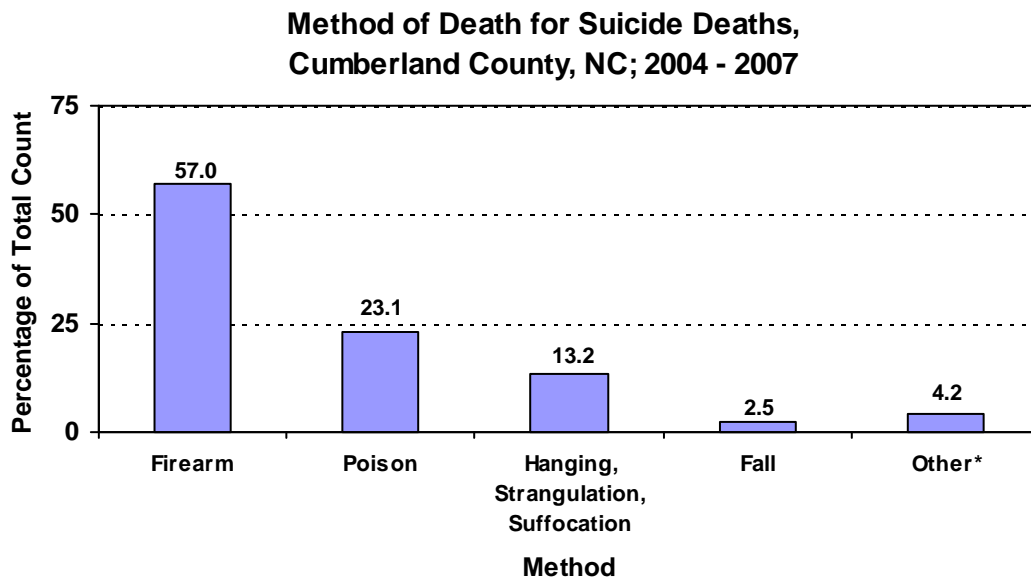


Table 6: Method of Death for Suicide Deaths in Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
		Number	%
Method			
	Firearm	69	57.0
	Poisoning	28	23.1
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	16	13.2
	Fall	3	2.5
	Sharp Instrument	2	1.8
	Drowning	1	0.8
	Motor Vehicle	1	0.8
	Other Transport Vehicle	1	0.8
Total Deaths		121	100



* Other methods include: sharp and blunt instruments, unarmed assaults, fires or burns, drowning, motor vehicles, violent shaking, intentional neglect, and other unspecified methods.

Table 7: Race by Gender of Suicide Victims in Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Race										
American Indian	2	2.1	*	*	0	0	*	*	2	1.7
Asian	2	2.1	*	*	2	7.7	*	*	4	3.3
Black	13	13.7	7.2	3.3 - 11.1	8	30.8	3.9	1.2 - 6.6	21	17.4
White	77	81.1	25.5	19.8 - 31.2	15	57.7	5.0	2.5 - 7.5	92	76.0
Other/ Unknown	1	1.1	*	*	1	3.8	*	*	2	1.7

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Suicide Victims,
Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

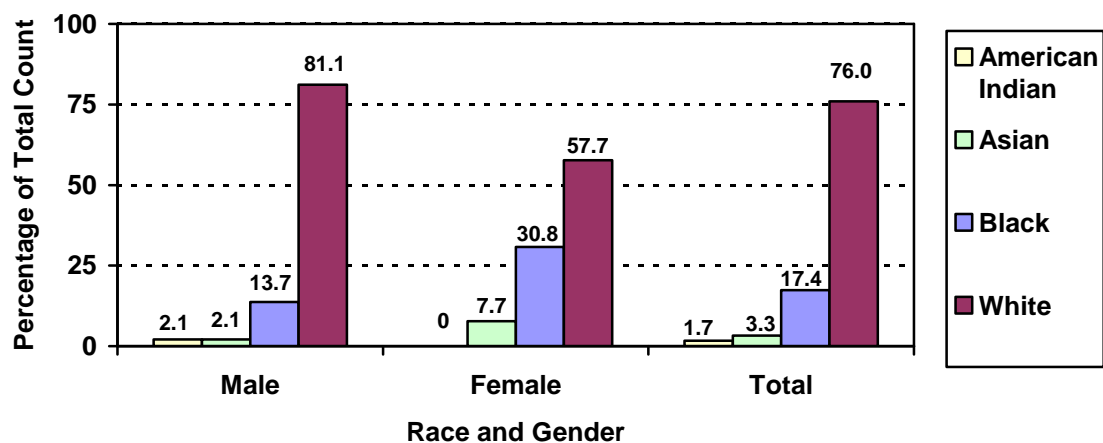
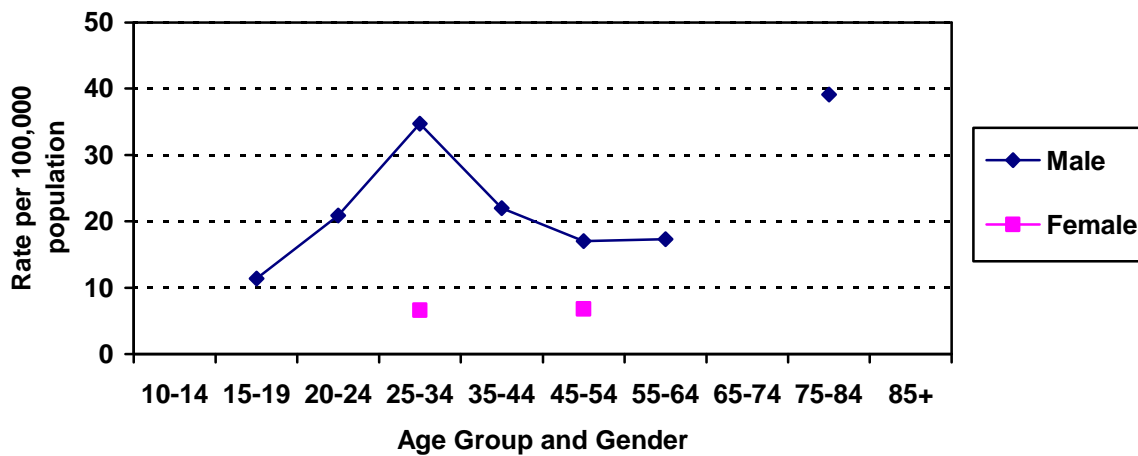


Table 8: Age Group by Gender of Suicide Victims in Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Age Group										
15 - 19	6	6.3	11.4	2.3 - 20.5	1	3.8	*	*	7	5.8
20 - 24	13	13.7	20.9	9.5 - 32.3	4	15.4	*	*	17	14.0
25 - 34	27	28.4	34.7	21.6 - 47.8	6	23.1	6.6	1.4 - 11.8	33	27.3
35 - 44	19	20.0	22.0	12.1 - 31.9	4	15.4	*	*	23	19.0
45 - 54	13	13.7	17.0	7.8 - 26.2	6	23.1	6.8	1.3 - 12.3	19	15.7
55 - 64	9	9.5	17.3	6.0 - 28.6	2	7.7	*	*	11	9.1
65 - 74	2	2.1	*	*	2	7.7	*	*	4	3.3
75 - 84	5	5.3	39.1	4.8 - 73.4	1	3.8	*	*	6	5.0
85 +	1	1.1	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	0.8
Total Deaths	95	100			26	100			121	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Suicide Rates by Age Group and Gender of Victims,
Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



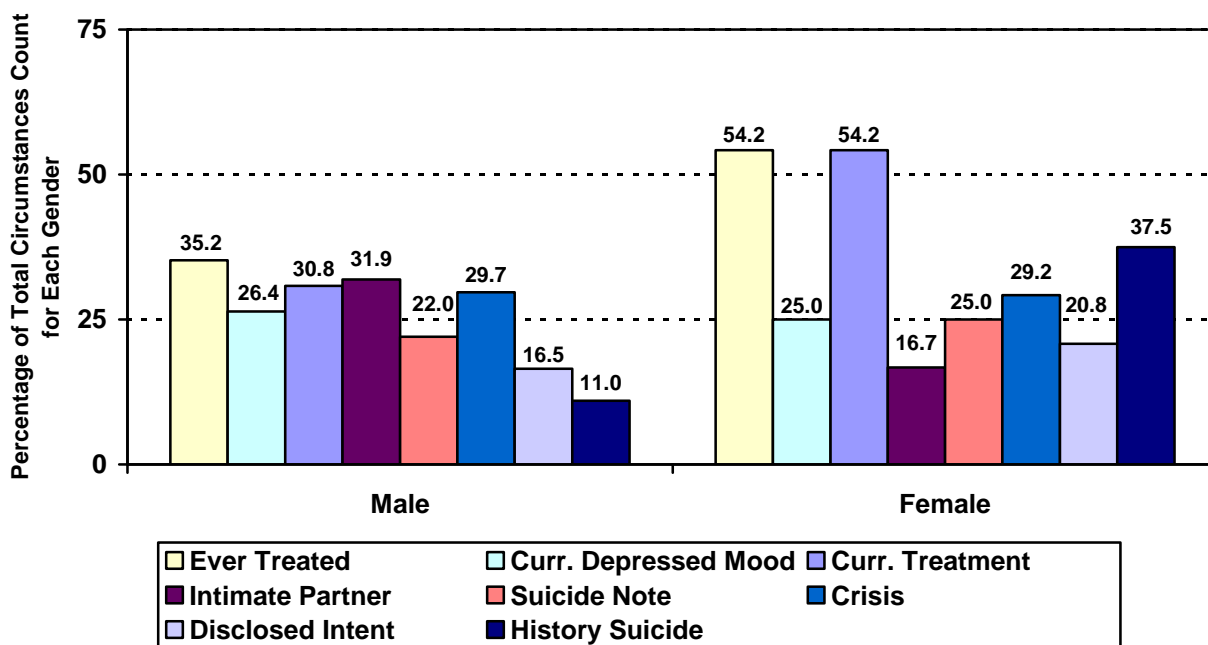
Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

Table 9: Circumstances of Suicide Victims in Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Victim Circumstances						
Current depressed mood	24	26.4	6	25.0	30	26.1
Current treatment for mental illness	28	30.8	13	54.2	41	35.7
Ever treated for mental illness	32	35.2	13	54.2	45	39.1
Alcohol problem	9	9.9	0	0	9	7.8
Other substance problem	10	11.0	0	0	10	8.7
Left a suicide note	20	22.0	6	25.0	26	22.6
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	15	16.5	5	20.8	20	17.4
History of suicide attempts	10	11.0	9	37.5	19	16.5
Crisis in past two weeks	27	29.7	7	29.2	34	29.6
Physical health problem	16	17.6	5	20.8	21	18.3
Intimate partner problem	29	31.9	4	16.7	33	28.7
Other relationship problem	8	8.8	3	12.5	11	9.6
Job problem	5	5.5	0	0	5	4.3
School problem	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial problem	3	3.3	1	4.2	4	3.5
Suicide of family or friend in past 5 years	1	1.1	0	0	1	0.9
Other death of friend/ family	4	4.4	0	0	4	3.5
Recent criminal/ legal problem	3	3.3	0	0	3	2.6
Other legal problems	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in past month	9	9.9	1	4.2	10	8.7
Victim of interpersonal violence in past month	0	0	0	0	0	0

* Circumstances are only available for 1,000 of the 1,085 suicide deaths where age was ≥ 10 . The denominator of the percentage is the total number of suicide victims for each gender category who had circumstance data available. Each suicide victim may have 0 to many circumstances.

**Circumstances by Gender for Suicide Victims,
Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



* Note: Multiple options are available therefore such responses add up to more than 100%. This figure does not include all circumstances.

**Table 10: Mental Illnesses Under Treatment at the Time of Suicide in
Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

	Male	Female	Total
	Number	Number	Number
Mental Illness			
Depression/ Dysthymia	26	10	36
Bipolar Disorder	3	1	4
Schizophrenia	3	1	4
Unknown	4	0	4
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	3	0	3
Other	1	2	3
Anxiety Disorder	1	1	2

SECTION III: HOMICIDE

Table 11: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Homicide Victims in Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007					
		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	89	78.1	14.8	11.7 - 17.9
	Female	25	21.9	4.0	2.4 - 5.6
Race					
	American Indian	2	1.8	*	*
	Asian	1	0.9	*	*
	Black	68	59.6	14.7	11.2 - 18.2
	White	43	37.7	6.0	4.2 - 7.8
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	10	8.8	12.6	4.8 - 20.4
	Non-Hispanic	104	91.2	9.0	7.3 - 10.7
Age Group					
	< 1	4	3.5	*	*
	1 - 4	4	3.5	*	*
	5 - 9	0	0	*	*
	10 - 14	0	0	*	*
	15 - 19	7	6.1	7.2	1.9 - 12.5
	20 - 24	25	21.9	23.7	14.4 - 33.0
	25 - 34	23	20.2	13.6	8.1 - 19.1
	35 - 44	26	22.8	14.2	8.7 - 19.7
	45 - 54	18	15.8	11	5.9 - 16.1
	55 - 64	3	2.6	*	*
	65 - 74	1	0.9	*	*
	75 - 84	2	1.8	*	*
	85 +	1	0.9	*	*
Total Deaths		114	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Homicide Rates by Gender and Race,
Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

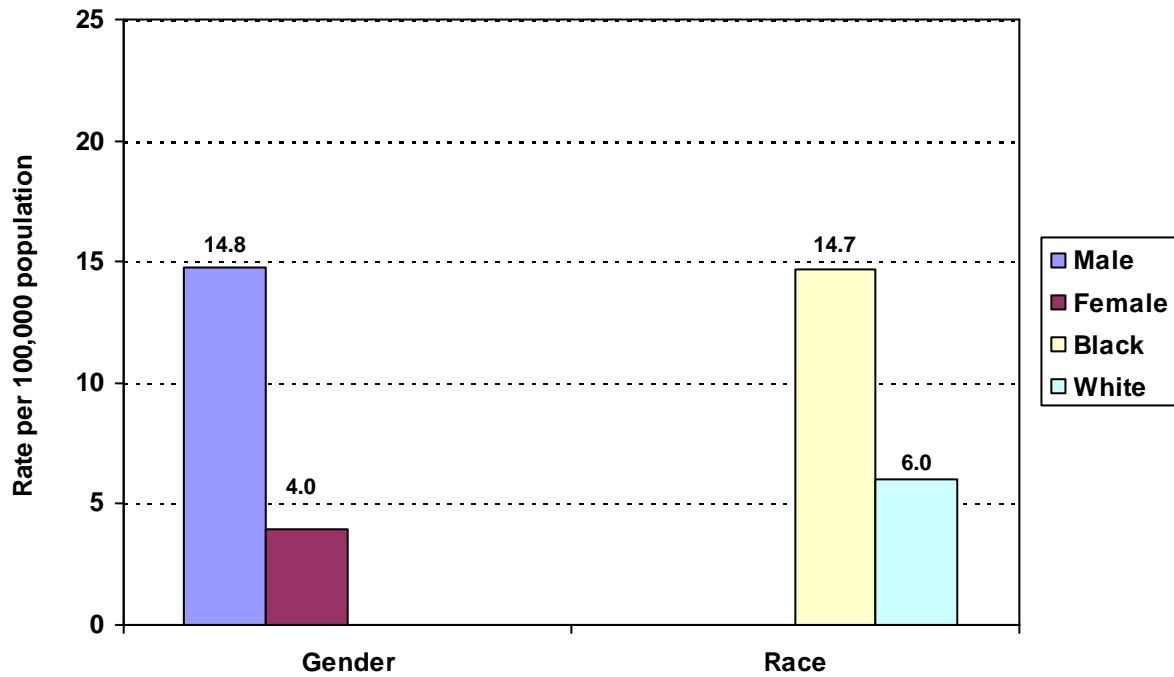
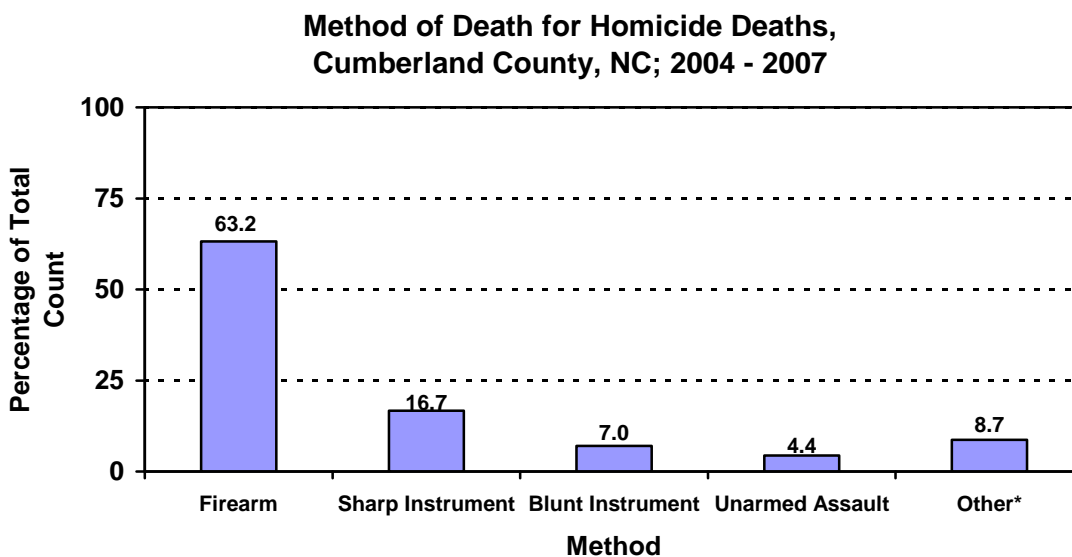


Table 12: Method of Death for Homicide Deaths in Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
Method		Number	%
	Firearm	72	63.2
	Sharp Instrument	19	16.7
	Blunt Instrument	8	7.0
	Unarmed Assault	5	4.4
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	3	2.6
	Poisoning	3	2.6
	Drowning	1	0.9
	Intentional Neglect	1	0.9
	Motor Vehicle	1	0.9
	Other	1	0.9
Total Deaths		114	100



* Other methods include: sharp and blunt instruments, unarmed assaults, fires or burns, drowning, motor vehicles, violent shaking, intentional neglect, and other unspecified methods.

Table 13: Race by Gender of Homicide Victims in Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Race										
American Indian	1	1.1	*	*	1	4.0	*	*	2	1.8
Asian	1	1.1	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	0.9
Black	59	66.3	27.0	20.1 - 33.9	9	36.0	3.7	1.3 - 6.1	68	59.6
White	28	31.5	7.8	4.9 - 10.7	15	60.0	4.2	2.1 - 6.3	43	37.7

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Homicide Victims,
Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

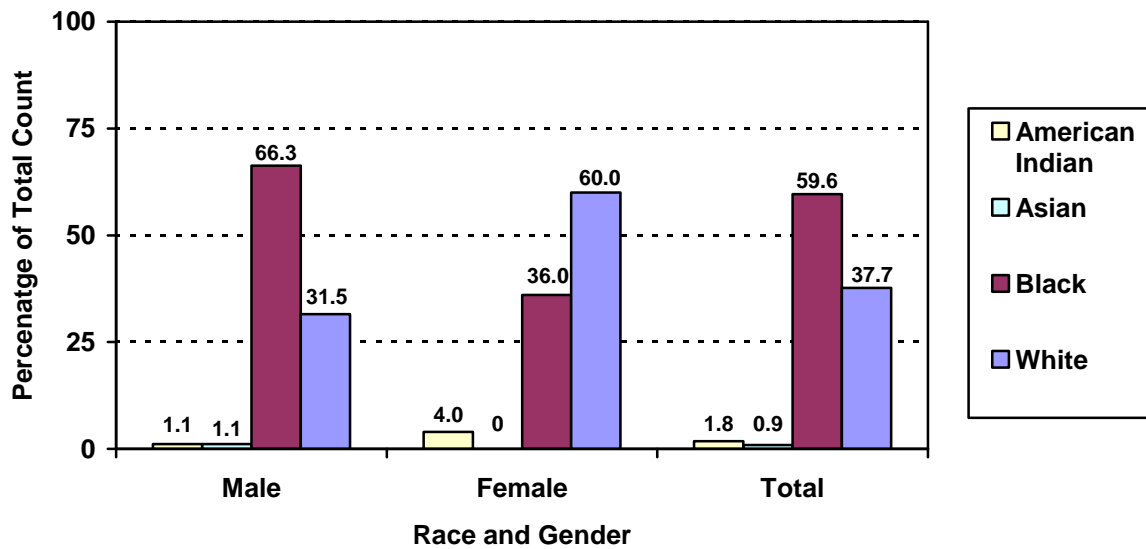
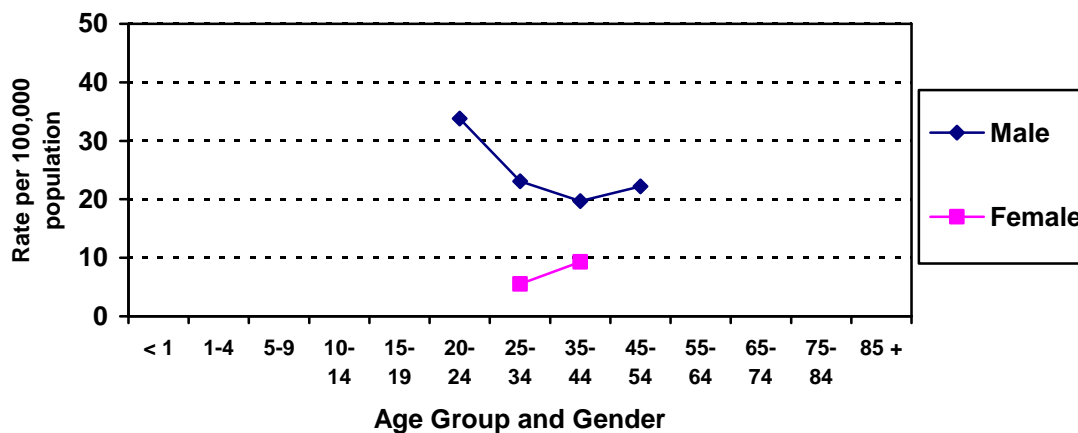


Table 14: Age Group by Gender of Homicide Victims in Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Age Group										
< 1	2	2.2	*	*	2	8.0	*	*	4	3.5
1 - 4	3	3.4	*	*	1	4.0	*	*	4	3.5
15 - 19	4	4.5	*	*	3	12.0	*	*	7	6.1
20 - 24	21	23.6	33.8	19.3 - 48.3	4	16.0	*	*	25	21.9
25 - 34	18	20.2	23.1	12.4 - 33.8	5	20.0	5.5	0.7 - 10.3	23	20.2
35 - 44	17	19.1	19.7	10.4 - 29.0	9	36.0	9.3	3.2 - 15.4	26	22.8
45 - 54	17	19.1	22.2	11.6 - 32.8	1	4.0	*	*	18	15.8
55 - 64	3	3.4	*	*	0	0	*	*	3	2.6
65 - 74	1	1.1	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	0.9
75 - 84	2	2.2	*	*	0	0	*	*	2	1.8
85 +	1	1.1	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	0.9
Total Deaths	89	100			25	100			114	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Homicide Rates by Age Group and Gender of Victims,
Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

Table 15: Circumstances of Homicides in Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
		Number	%
Event Circumstances			
	Other argument, abuse, or conflict	45	45.9
	Precipitated by another serious crime	33	33.7
	Intimate partner violence related	18	18.4
	Drug involvement	16	16.3
	Argument over money or property	3	3.1
	Jealousy (Lovers Triangle)	2	2.0
Victim Characteristics			
	Victim used a weapon	7	7.1
	Victim was a bystander	1	1.0
	Justifiable self defense	1	1.0

* The denominator of the percentage is the total number of homicide victims who had circumstance data available. Each homicide victim may have anywhere from zero to many circumstances.

Table 16: Crimes Precipitating Homicides in Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
	Male	Female	Total
	Number	Number	Number
Crime			
Robbery	17	4	21
Burglary	9	3	12
Drug Trade	2	0	2
Other	2	1	3
Rape, Sexual Assault	1	1	2
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	2	2

Table 17: Type of Weapon by Manner of Death in Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007

Weapon Type	Manner of Death											
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Firearm	69	57.0	72	63.2	1	100.0	2	100.0	0	0	144	59.3
Sharp Instrument	2	1.7	19	16.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	8.6
Blunt Instrument	0	0	8	7.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	3.3
Poisoning	28	23.1	3	2.6	0	0	0	0	3	60.0	34	14.0
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	16	13.2	3	2.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	7.8
Unarmed Assault	0	0	5	4.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2.1
Fall	3	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.2
Drowning	1	0.8	1	0.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.8
Motor Vehicle	1	0.8	1	0.9	0	0	0	0	1	20.0	3	1.2
Other Transport Vehicle	1	0.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
Intentional Neglect	0	0	1	0.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
Other	0	0	1	0.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	20.0	1	0.4
Total Deaths	121	100	114	100	1	100	2	100	5	100	243	100

Table 18: Type of Firearm by Manner of Death in Cumberland County, NC; 2004 - 2007 For Firearm Deaths only										
Firearm Type	Manner of Death									
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Handgun	53	76.8	50	69.4	0	0	2	100.0	105	72.9
Rifle	8	11.6	4	5.6	0	0	0	0	12	8.3
Shotgun	7	10.1	9	12.5	1	100.0	0	0	17	11.8
Unknown Firearm Type	1	1.4	9	12.5	0	0	0	0	10	6.9
Total Deaths	69	100	72	100	1	100	2	100	144	100

GLOSSARY

Adult	Person was 18 years of age or older on date of death.
Child	Person was less than 18 years of age on date of death.
Legal intervention	Decedent was killed by a police officer or some other peace officer, including military police, acting in the line of duty. Includes legal executions.
Occurrent death	Death occurred in NC. Decedent may or may not have been a NC resident at the time of death.
Peace officer	Person with specified legal authority to use deadly force.
Rates	Calculated as $\text{count} \times 100,000 / \text{population}$.
Resident death	Victim was a NC resident at the time of death and the death occurred in NC. All deaths reported in this report are resident deaths.
Undetermined intent	A death resulting from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating the manner of death was not sufficient to determine intent.
Violent death	Intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, or against a group or community. Deaths meeting this definition include suicides, homicides, and legal interventions.



State of North Carolina • Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Department of Health and Human Services
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary
Division of Public Health • Jeffrey P. Engel, State Health Director
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